

WELLESLEY FACTS

GREEN WELLESLEY: OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION

Protected Open Space

- Town-owned: over 550 acres
- State-owned: 284 acres
- Nonprofit conservation organizations: 33 acres
- Land with conservation restrictions: 52 acres

Temporarily Protected Open Space

- Lands in tax abatement programs for forestry (Chapter 61), agriculture (Chapter 61A), or recreation (Chapter 61B): 255 acres

Unprotected Open Space

- Town-owned open space such as school playgrounds: approximately 220 acres
- Institutions: 933 acres

Designated Scenic Roads

- Pond Road (1.17 miles)
- Waterway/Brookway (640 feet)
- Squirrel Road (.27 miles)
- Cartwright Road (.39 miles)
- Cheney Drive (493 feet)
- Benvenue Street (.81 miles)

Water resources

- 6 streams
- 14 wetlands systems
- 2 Great Ponds
- Over 10 small ponds
- 2 major aquifers
- Nonpoint source pollution from stormwater runoff containing oil, grease, pesticides, herbicides and other chemicals is the major threat to water quality in ponds and streams.

Recreational Facilities

- 16 neighborhood parks/playgrounds (1-5 acres): 46.5 acres
- 10 playfields (5-15 acres): 100.06 acres
- 3 community parks (15+ acres): 82.03
- 2 major parks (25+ acres): 136 acres
- Swimming beach at Morse's Pond
- 17 miles of marked trails
- Recreation Center

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

- Wellesley residents value the visual and other benefits they get from privately-held open space.
- There is relatively little open land that is not either owned by institutions or protected in some way.
- Almost 80% of the unprotected open space is under institutional ownership.
- Not all town-owned land used for open space or recreational purposes is permanently protected from development.

Source: Town of Wellesley Open Space and Recreation Plan

Questions? Visit the Wellesley Comprehensive Plan web page: www.ci.wellesley.ma.us